

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 058331

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 058331

CARACAS FOR DEA

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT STATE 058331, SENT BOGOTA 10 MARCH 76:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 058331

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE

REF: BOGOTA 2314 AND 2298

1. WE ARE IN SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT WITH VIEWS EXPRESSED REFTELS. COLOMBIA CONTINUES TO BE OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE IN OUR INTERNATIONAL ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT AND HOLDS THE KEY TO OUR HOPES OF SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCING AMOUNT OF COCAINE REACHING U.S. WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE STRONG COMMITMENT OF PRESIDENT LOPEZ TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM AND ARE FULLY COMMITTED TO BEING RESPONSIVE. AS YOU KNOW HIS DECISION TO PLACE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DIRECTING AND COORDINATING THE ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT IN THE HANDS OF THE MOD AND GIVE THE MILITARY A KEY ROLE HAS RAISED A NUMBER OF CONCERNS HERE. NEVERTHELESS, WE RECOGNIZE THIS (1) IS A COLOMBIAN DECISION, (2) GIVEN THE STRUCTURE OF THE

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 058331

COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT, MAKES SENSE, AND (3) IS PROBABLY

ESSENTIAL TO CONDUCT THE CONCERTED MAJOR EFFORT NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THE RESULTS WE SEEK.

2. THUS WE ARE ANXIOUS TO MOVE AHEAD IN PREPARING A PROGRAM IN WHICH WE WOULD DO OUR PART. WE HAVE ALREADY INCLUDED 8-10 MILLION DOLLARS FOR A COLOMBIAN PROGRAM IN OUR PRELIMINARY PLANNING THROUGH FY 1977, BUT WISH EMPHASIZE THAT IN THE END THE PROGRAM MIGHT BE LARGER OR SMALLER, AS REQUIRED BY GOC PLAN OF ATTACK AND DEGREE TO WHICH OUR PARTICIPATION REQUIRED. WE ARE COMMITTED TO DOING OUR SHARE IN A MAJOR COOPERATIVE EFFORT, AND IT IS ON THIS BASIS THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE TALKS GO FORWARD WITH THE COLOMBIANS. ASSUMING THESE TALKS WOULD LEAD TO A SOLID PROGRAM WE WOULD EXPECT NO SERIOUS PROBLEM IN PRESENTING IT TO CONGRESS.

3. THE TEAM WE PROPOSE TO SEND WOULD BRING TOGETHER THOSE FROM WASHINGTON WHO KNOW WHAT WE NEED TO DRAFT A PROGRAM WHICH MEETS REQUIREMENTS HERE AND THOSE FROM MISSION WHO KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE PROBLEM IN COLOMBIA. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THEIR DISCUSSIONS COULD DEVELOP THE OUTLINES OF A LOGICAL NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION PLAN WHICH MISSION COULD THEN DISCUSS WITH GOC. FROM BASIC PLAN (AS DISTINGUISHED FROM ORGANIZATION) TO AGREEMENT ON RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS WOULD NOT BE LONG PROCESS.

4. TO PROVIDE THE ABOVE TEAM WITH BEST, MOST CURRENT POSSIBLE INFORMATION, DEA IS PREPARED TO SEND TO BOGOTA TWO OR THREE INTELLIGENCE SPECIALISTS TO GO OVER MATERIAL COLLECTED DURING OPERATION KITCHEN AND INTERVIEW THOSE AMERICANS AT POST WHO WERE INVOLVED. THESE PERSONS WOULD CONTACT GOC OFFICIALS ONLY WITH PRIOR MISSION APPROVAL. INITIAL STUDY WOULD BE AVAILABLE THREE WEEKS AFTER TEAM REACHED BOGOTA, AND WILL CONCENTRATE ON COCAINE TRAFFICKING METHODS AND PATTERNS. TEAM CAN DEPART WASHINGTON AS SOON AS MISSION CABLES ITS APPROVAL.

5. IN ADDITION TO WORK TO BE DONE BY INTELLIGENCE TEAM, WE HOPE OTHER MISSION ELEMENTS WILL BE ASKED TO COOPERATE FULLY IN PROVIDING CURRENT DATA BASE FOR PLANNERS. FOR
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PAGE 03 STATE 058331

EXAMPLE, ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION SHOULD REACTIVATE ITS INVESTIGATION OF ETHER IMPORTS, DAO COULD UPDATE OCTOBER 75 DIA MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY FOR COLOMBIA (WHICH REPORTS THAT COLOMBIA AIRFORCE HAS 34 RPT 34 HELICOPTERS), ETC.

6. PROPOSED TIMING: TO AVOID FURTHER DELAYS, INTELLIGENCE TEAM CAN DEPART WASHINGTON AS SOON AS EMBASSY APPROVES

VISIT. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT PLANNING TEAM NOT WAIT FOR
COMPLETION OF STUDY, BUT ARRIVE BOGOTA ABOUT ONE WEEK AFTER
INTELLIGENCE TEAM HAS SET TO WORK, USING EARLY ARRIVAL
FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH MISSION OFFICIALS, FIELD VISITS AND
IF MISSION CONCURS, PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH GOC OFFICIALS.
KISSINGER UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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